



"I am the door . . ." John 10:9

**corinth church**  
**100<sup>th</sup>**  
**anniversary**





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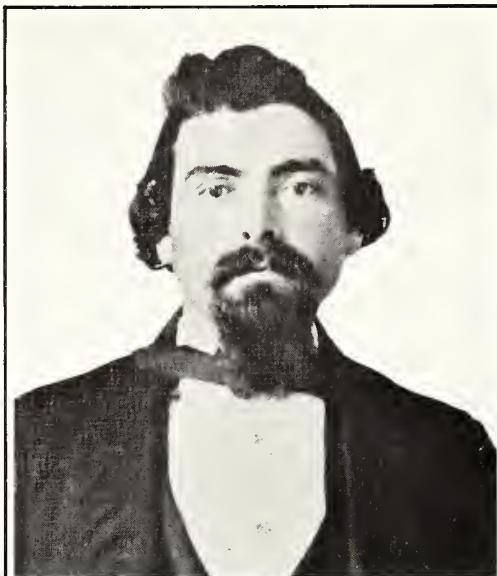


*With countless treasured memories  
of fruitful years of responsive association,  
of inspirational and spiritual refreshment,  
of shared great joy and great sorrow,  
of kindly counsel and gentle consolation:*

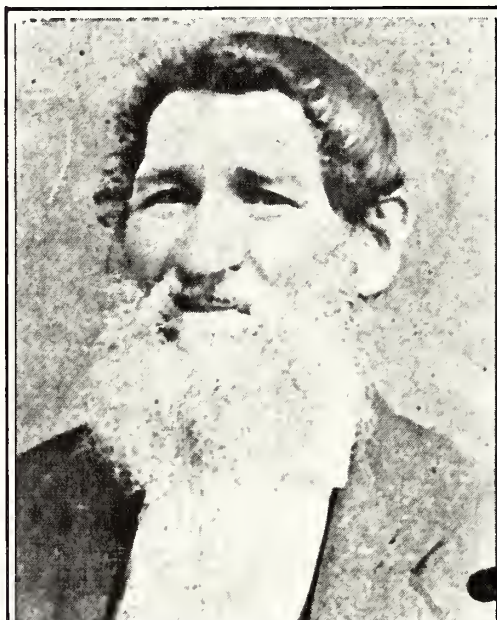
*We the Congregation of Corinth Church  
in this bright and memorable moment  
of our history do gratefully and lovingly  
dedicate this Centennial Celebration Booklet  
to Dr. and Mrs. Harry D. Althouse.*

**CORINTH EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 22, 1969**

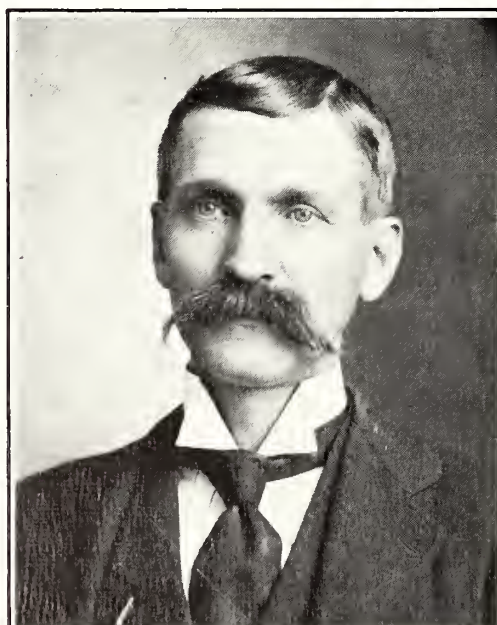
# corinth church history



*Adolphus L. Shuford*



*Henry W. Link*



*Amidus C. Link*

Its spire towers over the pinetops of northwest Hickory, rising above the Gothic cathedral which in recent years has become a landmark. It is, as it appears, a symbol of solidarity and prominence. Its congregation is deeply rooted by tradition and influence in the city it serves.

But Corinth Evangelical and Reformed Church (United Church of Christ) did not spring into existence as a sanctuary for the elite. As the church observes its centennial this May 22, 1969, the congregation will recall the humble origin and the 100 years of effort that have contributed to its success. They will think of those men and women who "caught the vision" in this community as a village began to develop around a hickory tree and a lodging house called "The Hickory Tavern".

Among the first settlers in the vicinity of Hickory Tavern were Adolphus L. Shuford and Henry W. Link, loyal members of the German Reformed Church denomination who sought the services of Dr. Jeremiah Ingold, a "true prophet of the Lord." This was in the year 1860, before the outbreak of the War Between the States. Dr. Ingold preached the first sermon ever delivered in Hickory.

There was no church or other suitable building in the village for religious services; so the two sponsors built what was common in those years, a temporary shelter called a "stand". During the summer worship was held in the "stand" and in winter in the home of Mr. Link. This practice was continued until 1868 when Dr. Ingold took the initiative in building what was called the "Free Academy," near the old cemetery on the present First Avenue, S. E. The Academy was used for school purposes, a union Sunday School, "preaching by any and all denominations, and by any show that happened to come along."

It was in the Free Academy building that the Reformed Church was organized on May 22, 1869. The following 22 people formed the honor roll of charter members: Henry W. Link — Catherine Link — Amidus C. Link — Peter L. Rowe — Andrew N. Rowe — Adolphus Rowe — Martha C. Rowe — William L. Ramsaur — Caroline L. Ramsaur — Adolphus L. Shuford — Abel A. Shuford — Abel Whitener — Eliza Whitener — John Fry — Emaline Fry — Susan Whitener — Henry Fry — Isaiah Ingold — William P. Reinhardt — Mary L. Reinhardt (Mrs. Reinhardt is said to have suggested calling the Church "Corinth.") — Lovinia Killian and Etta Graham Ramsaur.

After the list was completed the members proceeded to organize the congregation by electing the following officers: Elders: H. W. Link and Peter L. Rowe; Deacons: A. A. Shuford and Amidus C. Link, Secretary: A. C. Link and Treasurer: A. A. Shuford, who were immediately ordained and installed. The election, by request, was conducted by W. P. Coulter.

The congregation worshipped in the Academy building until the year 1871, when H. W. Robinson gave a lot with 100 foot frontage, adjoining the Academy lot, for a Reformed Church. A subscription list was then started to raise funds for a church. H. W. Link, A. L. Shuford and W. P. Reinhardt were appointed as the building committee.

The cornerstone was laid in the Fall of 1871 at which service Rev. G. W. Welker preached the sermon, Dr. J. C. Clapp delivered the address, and Dr. Ingold conducted the liturgical services. The house was a wooden structure and was finished, except for painting, in the Spring of 1874.

It is a matter of missionary history that in the Reformed Church Review of 1871 there appeared a call to the church-at-large for help for the Reformed Church at "Hickory Tavern." This call was signed by Elders Henry W. Link and Peter L. Rowe.

In 1877 J. F. Murrill was elected secretary of the Consistory and wrote the following relating to the congregation: "The congregation, though weak in a numerical and pecuniary way has through the encouragement of small contributions from distant friends and their own unflinching efforts, succeeded in building a house of worship."

The first Reformed Church burned on March 26, 1887. The congregation was kindly offered the use of the Presbyterian Church and services were held there until the second church building was completed in 1888. This was the first brick church to be erected in Hickory and stood near the corner of the present Second Street and Trade Avenue, N.W.

Dedication services were not held until June 28, 1890. The sermon was preached by the pastor, The Rev. Lewis Reiter. The Reverends C. B. Heller — Paul Borringer — J. A. Foil and J. L. Murphy were present



and took part in the program

In 1903, Corinth Church became a charge. Until this time the charge was composed of Grace, Bethel and Corinth Churches. The little brick church in time became too small for the growing congregation and building plans were considered. The last service in the old church was held on October 30, 1910.

The first action in regard to the third church building, later erected on Second Street and First Avenue, N. W., was taken at a congregational meeting held on September 20, 1905, during the pastorate of Dr. Murphy. A. A. Shuford moved that the congregation take steps to build a new church. A motion was adopted to buy the Thurston property for the location. On December 5, 1906, G. H. Geitner and Dr. Murphy were appointed to a committee by the Consistory to devise building plans.

These plans were adopted on March 13, 1907. Seven men appointed by the Consistory and pastor to the building committee were A. A. Shuford — J. C. Fry — G. H. Geitner — E. L. Shuford — C. H. Geitner — S. L. Whitener and L. R. Whitener with E. L. Shuford as chairman. The cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1909. Dr. Walter W. Rowe made the address. The first service in the new church was held November 6, 1910. Dr. J. C. Leonord of Lexington preached the sermon and Dr. Murphy read the dedication service. The church was opened on October 12, 1910, for the wedding of Miss Esther Shuford and Bascom B. Blackwelder, the first nuptials to be solemnized in the new sanctuary.

Corinth Church has entertained the North Carolina Classis four times — 1873, 1903, 1919 and 1934. The Synod of the Potomac met here in 1911, and the 21st Triennial Sessions of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in 1923. A special train from Philadelphia, special cars from Ohio, Maryland and other states, and private automobiles from all sections of the country brought hundreds of delegates and visitors to Hickory for the event.

When the North Carolina Classis met here in 1919, Corinth Church observed its 50th anniversary, and in connection with this service two sons of the denomination, The Reverends Sterling Whitener and Frank Fesperman were commissioned as missionaries.

Corinth Church paid tribute to their World War One heroes by placing a bronze plaque in the third church. Twenty-seven blue stars on the church honor roll listed the names of those who went forth in World War One. A gold star memorialized Orin M. Sigmon, a former member of the choir, who lost his life overseas. When the church observed its 75th anniversary in 1944, another plaque was dedicated, honoring the 29 young men and women serving with the armed forces in World War Two. Two had made the supreme sacrifice, Julius Abernethy and Iris Hawn. Dr. George W. Richards was the anniversary speaker.

Corinth Church in the 1950's again found itself outgrowing its facilities. Plans for relocating and building a new church were presented at a congregational meeting held Sunday, June 12, 1955, and accepted following favorable action taken by the Consistory the previous December 20, 1954. It was to be built on ten acres of land at 16th Avenue, N. W., offered by Shuford Mills, Inc. The congregation also approved a motion made by R. Walker Geitner and seconded by Barrie Blackwelder to appoint a planning committee composed of John G. H. Geitner, Cecil T. Bost and Harley F. Shuford, Sr., to consider plans for a new church building and to contact an architect or architects to draw the plans. Six Associates, Inc., of Asheville, was selected for the architectural and engineering work; Henry I. Gaines as architect, and Hickory Construction Company to build the church. The building committee consisted of Harley F. Shuford, Sr., Chairman — George L. Lyerly, Jr. — Mrs. A. Alex Shuford — William R. Weaver and Cecil T. Bost, Sr.

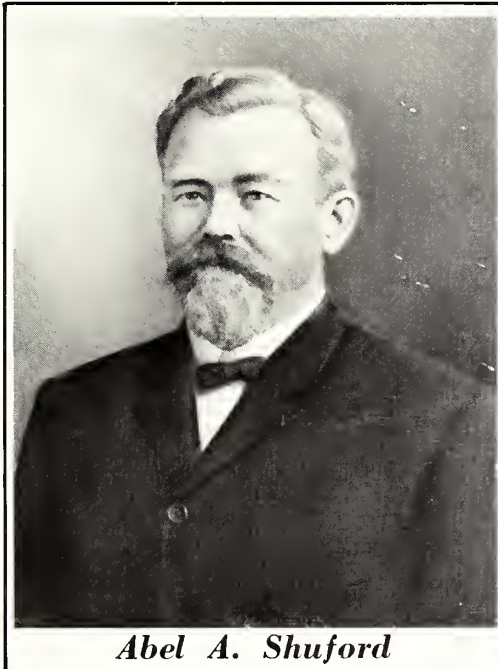
The groundbreaking ceremony for the new church was held on November 4, 1956, and the cornerstone was laid on November 16, 1958. This beautiful new building was formally opened in September of 1959. It stands as a glorious monument to Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Althouse during whose faithful and constant ministry and devoted service it came into being.

The first wedding to be solemnized in the new sanctuary was that of Miss Margie Ferguson Shuford and Robert Lee McKaughn, Jr., on August 22, 1959.

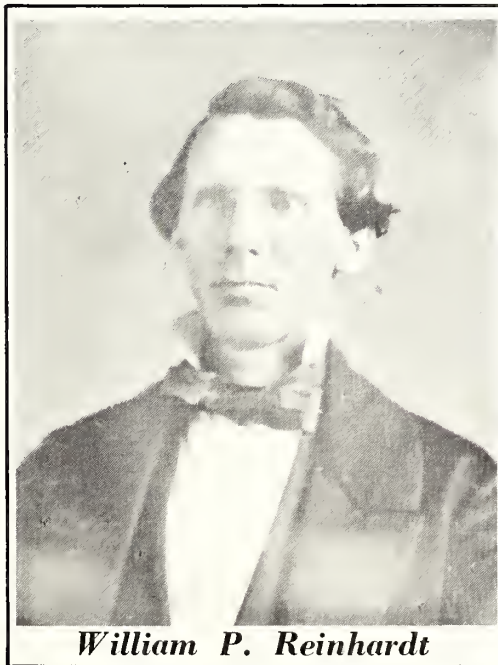
There are many other items of interest, worthy of record, connected with the one hundred year history of Corinth Church, but space does not permit inclusion. For the same reason many unforgettable names of loyal and devoted workers had to be omitted from the story.



*Peter L. Rowe*



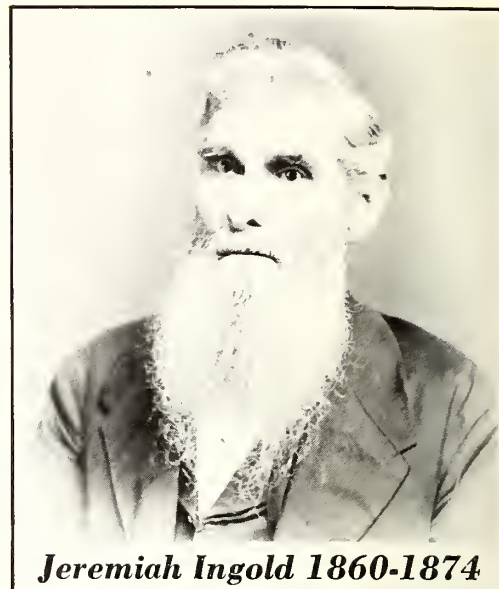
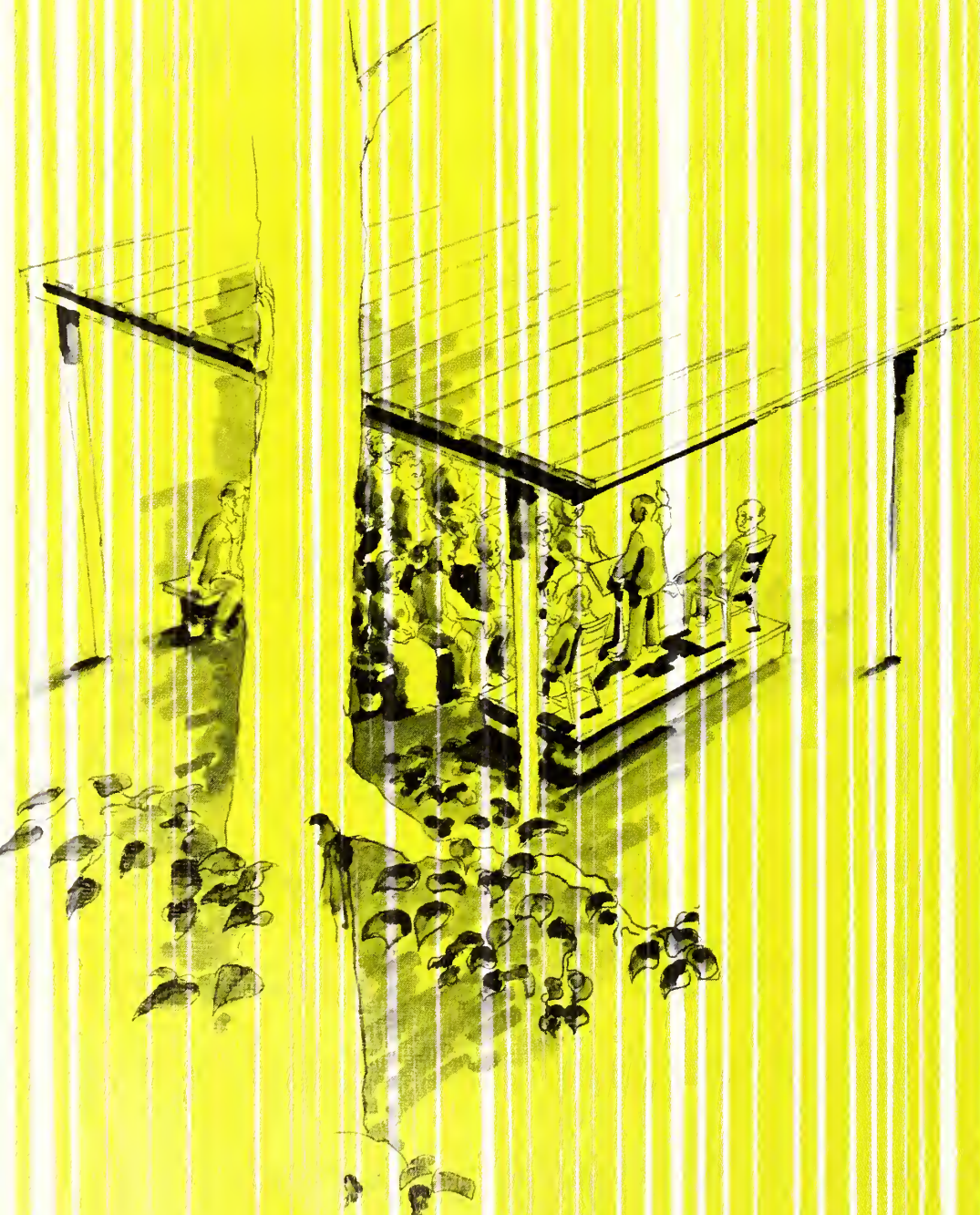
*Abel A. Shuford*



*William P. Reinhardt*



*"There was no church . . . so the two sponsors built . . . a temporary shelter called a stand."*



**Jeremiah Ingold 1860-1874**

In the summer of 1860 the Rev. Jeremiah Ingold accepted an invitation from Henry W. Link and Adolphus L. Shuford to preach the first sermon in the small village of Hickory Tavern. His acceptance prepared the way for his organization of the first congregation in Hickory nine years later and for the Centennial Celebration at Corinth Church in 1969.

Jeremiah Ingold, the thirteenth of fifteen children born to Peter Ingold and Barbara Moser Ingold, was born September 25, 1816. His ancestors probably came from Ingoldstadt in Bavaria, Germany. They settled in North Carolina about 1750 near the spot where the Brick Church of Guilford County was later erected.

Peter Ingold died when Jeremiah was still a young boy. But the able and energetic Barbara Ingold reared the children quite successfully. While they were growing up, the Rev. J. H. Crawford became pastor of the Brick Church, where Jeremiah was confirmed at the age of 16. The pastor took special interest in the Ingold children, particularly in Jeremiah. He saw great potential in the young boy and encouraged him to enter the ministry.

Thus Jeremiah enrolled at Marshall College, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1837. After graduation four years later he taught a private school in Lincoln County. Soon he returned to Mercersburg to enter the Reformed Seminary.

Letters from Mr. Crawford to the student in Pennsylvania covered many subjects — calling a new minister for Guilford County, money borrowed for Jeremiah's expenses, means and route of travel, etc. His correspondence warned of hard times and suggested "sponging" a little to get him home on \$10. It urged him to "come in the meekness and simplicity of the Gospel," to assume a grave and respectful walk, and to come without whiskers, pride, and fine clothes.

On December 14, 1843 Mr. Ingold married Margaret Caroline Ramsour at the home of the bride's parents, a plantation on the South Fork River in Lincoln County. Mrs. Ingold's parents, also of German origin, were Solomon Ramsour and Elizabeth Warlick Ramsour.

Mr. Ingold returned to North Carolina after completing his theological education and was licensed and ordained by the Classis of North Carolina at the Brick Church April 4, 1844. After more than a year with a small congregation in Alexander County, he accepted a call to the West Rowan Charge where he also taught a select school at China Grove.

In 1855 he accepted a call to the churches in Lincoln and Catawba counties and settled on a farm on the South Fork River. Then in 1860 he preached the first sermon in Hickory Tavern. The Rev. Mr. Ingold established not only the first Reformed church in Hickory, but also the first school. In 1872 he moved into the town of Hickory where he spent the rest of his life.

When organized, Corinth Church became part of the Grace Charge, served by Mr. Ingold until his resignation in 1874. In 1878 Mr. Ingold was again called to Corinth. He served as pastor until 1881 and then as associate pastor at intervals until his resignation in 1890. He preached his last sermon August 27, 1892.



# our ministers

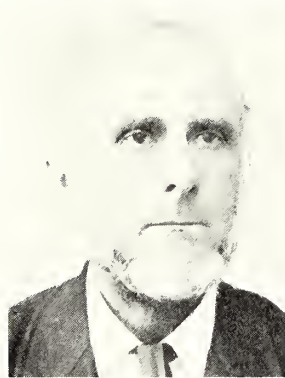
In 1884 Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, conferred on Mr. Ingold the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was president of the Board of Trustees of Claremont College for many years and president of the North Carolina Classis 12 times. He was active in the cause of Prohibition in town and state. The years of his ministry were troubled by the Civil War and by great theological controversy within the church.

Eight children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Ingold: Alice Elizabeth, who married John F. Murrill, after whose death she married LeRoy Whitener; Martha Louisa; Henry Ramsour; Laura Isabel, who married John Henry Pitts; Annie Barbara; Sarah Emma, who married Charles Carroll Bost; Frank Bernard, who married Alice Ethel Super; and Ada Eliza.

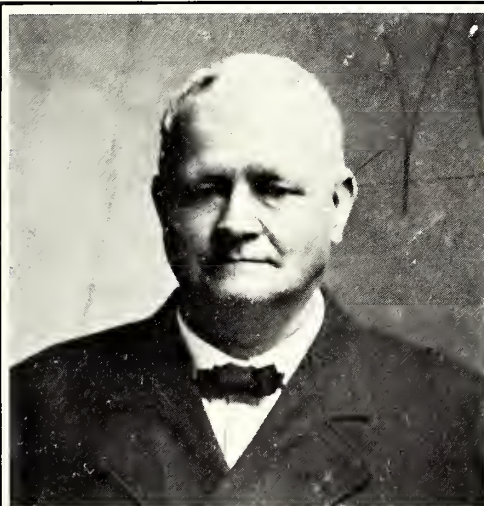
Those who knew Dr. Ingold wrote of him with reverence and affection. They described him as a profound theologian, a sound preacher, and a man of exalted Christian character.

After the death of his wife, June 12, 1891, he lived with his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Bost. His death, caused by a general breaking down, came as the congregation he had organized returned from Sunday services February 12, 1893.

After teaching school for a year in his home community he went to Bolton, Miss., to teach and eventually married there. He and his wife returned to Newton in the late summer of 1860. He joined the faculty of Catawba College and was associated with the college, either as a member of the faculty or as its president, for 40 years. He was ordained a minister in the Reformed Church in Newton in 1868, a position he held until 1890. He died July 2, 1910.



**Jacob C. Clapp/Supply 1876**



**Julius H. Shuford 1874-1876**

Rev. Julius H. Shuford, a native of Catawba County, became the second pastor of the Reformed Church in Hickory. He was the son of Jacob H., and Catherine Baker Shuford, and was born on December 19, 1849. His church membership began under the ministry of Dr. Jeremiah Ingold.

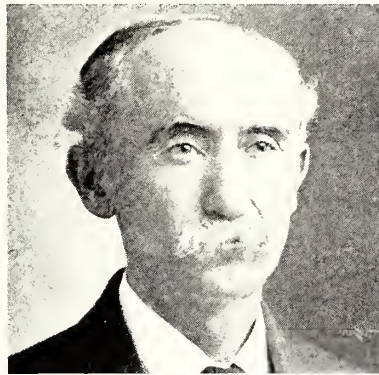
When a young man, he entered Catawba College at Newton, where he prepared for the Sophomore Class of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., and was graduated from there in the spring of 1874. In the summer of 1874, he was licensed to preach by the Classis of North Carolina. A few weeks after his ordination he was installed as pastor of Grace Charge, composed of four congregations — Hickory, Bethel, Grace, and Daniels. He served until the summer of 1876, when he was called to the Western Rowan Charge.

In the spring of 1881, he was called to Altamont Charge, Altamont, Ill., and served for some years in charges in that state. In the summer of 1888, he was called to Middlebrook, Va., and remained in the Shenandoah Valley until 1899.

The Rev. Mr. Shuford served a term as president of the Classis of North Carolina, and was twice elected by that Classis as a delegate to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States. He was present at Tiffin, Ohio, when the Peace Commission's report was adopted.

Later, the minister taught school in Caldwell county and engaged in literary work. He was author of a book known as the "Historical Sketch of the Shuford Family." He remained a bachelor throughout his life.

Rev. Jacob Crawford Clapp was born in Guilford County Sept. 5, 1832. He received his formal education at Catawba College, then located in Newton, and at Amherst College, Massachusetts, from which he graduated in 1857. Ursinus College later conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree.



**John A. Foil 1876-1877**

Dr. John A. Foil served as pastor in 1877. He supplied frequently every Reformed church in North Carolina. However, he became more widely known as an educator, serving as Superintendent of Catawba County schools. His greatest service was to Catawba College, teaching Greek and mathematics, being recognized as one of the most learned mathematicians in North Carolina in his day.



**A. S. Vaughn 1881-1883**

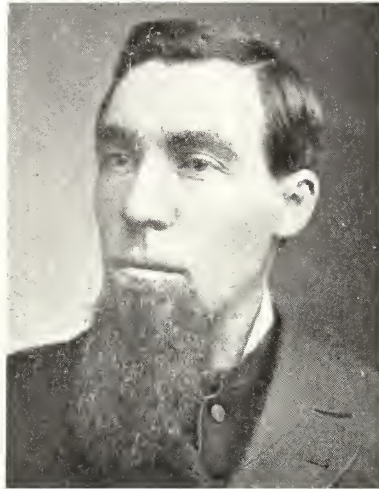
Rev. Vaughn came to Hickory in the fall of 1880 to head the new school sponsored by Corinth Church, Claremont College. He was a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. From 1859 to 1861 he was head of Catawba College in Newton, returning to Pennsylvania after the battle of Fort Sumter.

To provide more adequate support for Rev. Vaughn, Dr. Jeremiah Ingold resigned the pastorate of Corinth Church to allow him to become pastor.

Being disappointed with the progress he was making in developing Claremont College Rev. Vaughn resigned the pastorate of Corinth Church and presidency of the college.

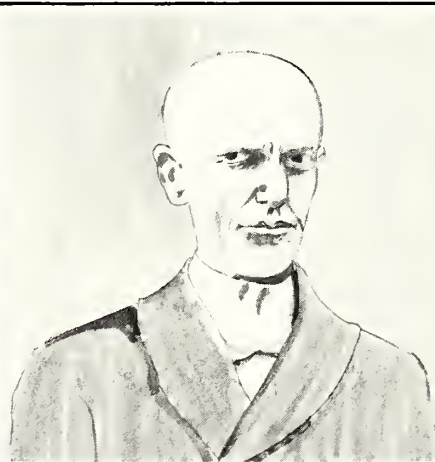
Reverend Mr. Horn was received by the North Carolina Classis as a licentiate from the Lehigh Classis (Pa.), Oct. 20, 1883 and was ordained the same day. He was dismissed to the Lehigh Classis Jan. 6, 1885.

### **Alfred P. Horn 1883-1884**



### **J. Dickey Gurley 1884-1885**

Educator-minister, Rev. Gurley came to North Carolina from the Westmoreland Classis and taught at Catawba College. He served as pastor of Grace Church and served Corinth Church in 1884-85. He was dismissed to the Illinois Classis.

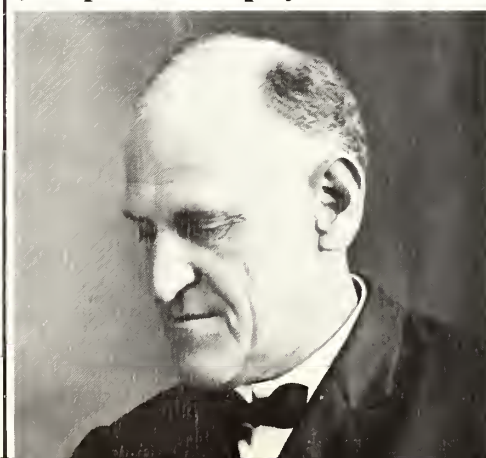


### **Lewis Reiter 1885-1890**

The Rev. Mr. Reiter served as pastor following ordination by Revs. Jeremiah Ingold, J. A. Foil and C. D. Gurley. At the same time he was pastor of Grace and Bethel (old South Fork Charge) and it was during his pastorate that the present Bethel brick church was built.

He was dismissed to the Virginia Classis in May, 1891.

### **Joseph L. Murphy 1890-1917**



Joseph Lorenzo Murphy was born in Davidson County, July 10th, 1858, a son of Pleasant Murphy and Barbara Long Murphy. He came from a family (on his mother's side) noted for contributing many ministers to the service of the Reformed Church.

Reared near old Bethany Church, he received his early education in the public schools, and later entered Catawba College, which at that time was a high school. It was at Catawba that he came in touch with the great personality of the Reformed Church; Dr. J. C. Clapp.

After high school, he entered Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., and was graduated with the class of 1885. At this institution, the North Carolina student came into contact with another power in his church; Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger.

Licensed and ordained to the ministry on October 23rd, 1885, the Rev. Mr. Murphy accepted a call to the pastorate of the Lincoln charge, composed of Matthews, Daniels and Salem congregations. He soon affected an organization at Maiden and erected Memorial Church, which was incorporated with the Lincoln charge. The Rev. Murphy then accepted a call to the Hickory charge and began his pastorate here the first Sunday of November in 1890.

The charge at that time was composed of Corinth, Grace and Bethel, but on January 19th, 1903, the Classis declared the Hickory congregation a charge and from then the Rev. Murphy's time was given mainly to its development. However, he also supplied the Brookford charge.

Years later, Dr. Murphy, in his writings, remembered it this way: "The little church on the corner (one block south from the later downtown location), in which, for twenty years, we worshipped and communed with our blessed Lord and fellowshiped with each other, has gone and there is not a stone or slab to mark the spot of hallowed associations and precious memories."

He also wrote: "By a conservative estimation, I have spoken to these people 3,500 times. No man could have spoken to the same people so many times on any one subject but religion. The Bible is a never failing source of supply."

Many offers came Dr. Murphy's way in the course of his ministry. Twice he was called to St. Luke's, Trappe, the college church of his alma mater. He was also called to Fairfield, Ohio, near Dayton; to the First Reformed Church of Spring City, Pa.; and to Grace Church in Newton. In addition, he was offered the presidency of Catawba College, and was once solicited to accept an appointment as a missionary to Japan. He chose to remain pastor of Corinth Church.

Dr. Murphy was a prominent leader in his denomination. For twenty-one years he was chosen to represent the North Carolina Classis in the general synod, the highest judicatory in the Reformed Church. He was closely allied with educational interests. For many years Dr. Murphy was a trustee and then president of the board of Catawba College, and was connected with Claremont College as trustee, teacher and president. He was also on the Board of Managers of Nazareth Orphan's Home.

Dr. Murphy's marriage in 1886 to Miss Minnie Reinhardt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reinhardt of Newton, produced two children; Josephine, now Mrs. R. A. Grimes of Hickory, and the late Joseph L. Murphy, who was to become a well known Hickory lawyer. After the death of his first wife, Dr. Murphy was married in 1891 to Miss Essie Carpenter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Carpenter of Maiden. To this union were born John Carpenter Murphy, now of Charlotte, and Mary, now Mrs. John McFarland of Hickory.

Dr. Murphy was both a Mason and a Pythian. He went through all the chairs in the Blue Lodge, and was a Knight Templar.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 10th, 1917, Dr. Joseph L. Murphy delivered, to the printing company, copy for a semi-monthly issue of the Reformed Church Standard, which he headed as editor-in-chief. That Autumn evening, the widely known, popular minister of Corinth Reformed Church set out from his home, which was across from the present high school site, to conduct a prayer service at the church, located then at the present site of Northwestern Bank. It was a walk he had made many, many times, stopping often along the way to talk with those he met. Two years before, when Dr. Murphy's twenty-fifth anniversary with the church was being noted, the Hickory Daily Record stated editorially: "No man enjoys the esteem and love of an entire community more, and no man deserves it more."

But there was no time that evening for talk with his friends, and the eloquent sermons of Dr. Murphy were never again to be heard. Scarcely a block from home he became ill and was taken to



Richard Baker Hospital, where he died at 3:25 the following morning. The Record headline told the story: "Dr. Joseph L. Murphy, Beloved Pastor, Dead. Shepherd of Reformed Church for Twenty-Seven Years Succumbs to Stroke of Apoplexy. Great Sorrow in Hickory."

And there was great sorrow. In the 59 years of his life, Dr. Murphy had become one of the foremost preachers of his day. But he was mourned not only as a minister to Corinth Church, but as a friend to the well known and the unknown, the rich and the poor. Almost everyone who lived in Hickory at the time has cause to remember Dr. Murphy and the feeling of loss his death caused. Local school children attended the burial service in a body, and the downtown stores closed their doors as a mark of respect during the funeral service on Saturday morning, October 13th, 1917.

On the day of his death the Hickory Daily Record carried a lengthy obituary, containing the following tribute: "No man was better known or better loved. A friend of the poor, he raised his voice for humanity. No man was a stranger to him. His personality was so magnetic, his charm so sweet, that one felt that Dr. Murphy always had been his friend. He walked without fear and without reproach among the people, honored and loved by all. Though one of the best pulpit orators in the state, Dr. Murphy also was an especially facile writer, as readers of the Record are aware. He was gifted with the pen as with the spoken word and he was a power for good."

On November 1st, 1917, the entire issue of the Reformed Church Standard was composed of memorials to Dr. Murphy. The most concise was this one by Dr. Shuford Peeler: "As a Christian he possessed a loving heart and a peaceful disposition. As a preacher he was eloquent, convincing and pointed. As a friend he was true and sympathetic. His passing is a great loss to our church in this state."

Dr. Walter W. Rowe was a son of Corinth Church, his father being Peter J. Rowe and his mother was Martha Whitener Rowe. He attended local schools and graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College in 1898. He entered Ursinus School of Theology, graduating in 1902. Catawba College conferred the A. M. degree upon Rev. Rowe in 1916 and Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1928.

He was ordained in 1902. His first pastorate was in Thomasville where he married Miss Minnie Grimes. He also served Emanuel and Calvary churches there. He became pastor of East Rowan Charge and supplied St. Luke and Burgan which he organized. Rev. Mr. Rowe became Professor of English Literature at Catawba College in Newton in 1908. In addition to his teaching he became pastor of Grace Church in Newton in 1909.

Growing up under the ministry of Dr. Joseph L. Murphy, it was only natural that upon Dr. Murphy's death in 1917, this congregation asked Dr. Rowe to become pastor of this church which he did in 1918, serving until the Fall of 1923 when he accepted the chair of New Testament Professorship at Central Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, later becoming pastor of Central Reformed Church in Dayton.

In 1935 Dr. Rowe accepted a call from Zion Reformed Church in Lenoir, and served that congregation until ill health required him to resign the pastorate. Death came to him in Lenoir June 27, 1957.

**Walter W. Rowe 1918-1924**



A leader in all phases of the ministry, he was accorded many honors — president of the Potomac Synod, president of the Ohio Synod, trustee of Catawba College and chairman of the board, president of the Classis of North Carolina and southwest Ohio. While serving as a pastor he was, for fifteen years, editor of the Reformed Church Standard, the denominational publication in North Carolina.

Dr. and Mrs. Rowe (She was widely recognized for her work in organizations of church women) were parents of three daughters and one son.



**George A. Longaker, 1924-1929**

Dr. Longaker was pastor of Corinth from 1924 until 1929. A graduate of Ursinus Theological Seminary, he began his ministry at Three Rivers, Mich. and later became pastor of Trinity Reformed Church in Akron, Ohio where he served nine years.

As a delegate to General Synod in 1923 meeting at Corinth Reformed Church, as the denomination was then named, he attracted the attention of members of the congregation and was called to become pastor of the local church. During his pastorate a new parsonage was built on the spot now included in the parking lot of the Northwestern Bank, east of the bank building. The Longaker family included Mrs. Longaker, three sons and a daughter. In 1929 Dr. Longaker accepted a call to a church in Ohio.

The Reverend Dr. Harry D. Althouse was born in Womelsdorf, Pa. on May 27th, 1898, the son of the late Irwin and Kate Matthew Althouse. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1919, and from the Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa. in 1922. He was married to Orpha Elizabeth Schaeffer, the daughter of the late Charles P. and Anna Stein Schaeffer, in Womelsdorf on June 15th, 1922. They went as bride and groom to Berwick, Pa. where Dr. Althouse served as pastor of the Reformed Church from 1922 to 1927. He then served as pastor of Grace Reformed Church in Shippensburg, Pa. from 1927 to 1930. Dr. and Mrs. Althouse came to Hickory in 1930 and he preached his first sermon in Corinth Reformed Church on June 1st, 1930. A daughter, Rosemary Elizabeth Althouse, who is now "Dr." Althouse, was born in Hickory on September 18th, 1932. She currently teaches at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S. C.

**Harry D. Althouse 1930-1969**



*Peter J. Rowe  
1856-1888  
L. Robinson  
Cemetery,  
downtown Hky.*



Dr. Althouse received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Catawba College on May 27th, 1941. He was elected President of the North Carolina Classis on February 7th, 1939 and the following year was elected the first President of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, in which he was most active. Dr. Althouse served on the Board of Trustees of Catawba College and as a member of the Board of Visitors of the Lancaster Theological Seminary for a number of terms. He was a member of the Commission of Higher Education of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; was elected to serve on the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at York, Pa. in 1944 for a term of six years and was re-elected at Ursinus College for a second term of six years.

Dr. Althouse has been interested in every worthwhile phase of community betterment. He is a former president of the Hickory Kiwanis Club; he served two terms as a director of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce; he was one of the founders of the Community Chest, now the Greater Hickory United Fund; he was chairman of the U.S.O. for seven counties and visited various sections of the Piedmont in the interest of this cause. Other valuable services to the community were rendered as Chairman of the Beautification Commission for at least fifteen years; second President of the Hickory Concert Association, former member of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Council; member of the City Housing Board and President of the Hickory Museum of Art for twenty years. He also received a citation from the Hickory Arts Council for his outstanding contribution to the artistic, cultural and religious life of the community. He was chosen "Man of the Year" by the Hickory Jaycees in 1953 and was Chaplain of the Catawba Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis for ten years — during the trying times of the great epidemic. He is considered the Father of recreation in Hickory and is still a member of the Hickory Recreation Commission. He remains active in the Hickory Ministerial Association. Dr. Althouse was one of the founders of Johns River Camp and has also served on the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds Board for many years.

Mrs. Althouse has also been active in the various phases of church work and has held Synodical offices in the Women's Missionary Society and in the Women's Guild. She was President of the Missionary Society of the Mercersburg Classis. She has been a Sunday School teacher for fifty years, teaching the last thirty-eight years in Corinth Church. She has been a faithful and devoted pastor's wife.



**Gordon H. Sperry**

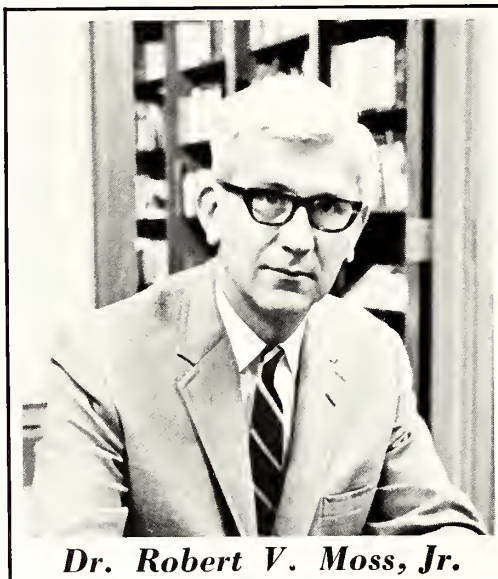
The Reverend Gordon H. Sperry became pastor of Corinth Church in February 1969 following the retirement of Dr. Althouse. Mr. Sperry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Sperry, was born and reared in Pennsylvania. He was educated for the ministry at Catawba College, Salisbury, and Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. Following Seminary graduation and Ordination he served a two year internship as assistant pastor of Christ Church, Hagerstown, Md., Dr. Harvey Fesperman, who became president of Southern Synod, was one of the pastors under whom he served.

For thirteen years Mr. Sperry was pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, Allentown, Pa. Prior to coming to Corinth Church he completed an eight and a half year pastorate in Milwaukee, Wis.

The Reverend Mr. Sperry has served as delegate to General Synod, traveled around the world in connection with a two-month preaching mission to Japan, visited mission stations in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, shared in the leadership of a Reformation Study Tour in Europe, was a director of Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo. and has been active in various community projects.

He is married to the former Marion A. Pillman of Indiana. The Sperrys have three children, David, Ann and Douglas.

**Serving as assistant Pastors were Reverend Edwin M. Neff (June, 1964 - May, 1966) and Reverend John W. Harrison (May, 1966 - June, 1968).**



**Dr. Robert V. Moss, Jr.**

Nominated this year for election to the presidency of the United Church of Christ, is a son of Corinth congregation, Dr. Robert V. Moss, Jr. Grandson of the late Dr. Jeremiah Ingold who organized Hickory's Reformed Church in 1869, Dr. Moss attended Hickory public schools, graduated magna cum laude from Franklin and Marshall College in 1943 and from Lancaster Seminary in 1945. In 1954 he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago, and in 1960 his doctorate of Divinity from Franklin and Marshall. He was ordained to the ministry of the former Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1946.

Dr. Moss joined the faculty of Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1951 and was elected its president in 1957. Previously he was a member of the Franklin and Marshall faculty, first as instructor in religion from 1946 to 1949, then as assistant professor until 1950. Dr. Moss has been a member of the United Church of Christ's theological commission, its Council of Higher Education and in 1966 was elected president of the American Association of Theological Schools.

Professional and Honorary Societies to which Dr. Moss has belonged include the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Gamma Mu. His publications include "The Life of Paul," 1955; "We Believe," 1957; "As Paul Sees Christ," 1958; and "The Life Everlasting," 1958; in "Great Phrases of The Christian Language," published in Robert Spikes book.

Married to the former Junia Evelyn Keppel of Salisbury, Dr. Moss is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Moss of Hickory. Dr. and Mrs. Moss have three sons, John, Robert III, and Timothy.



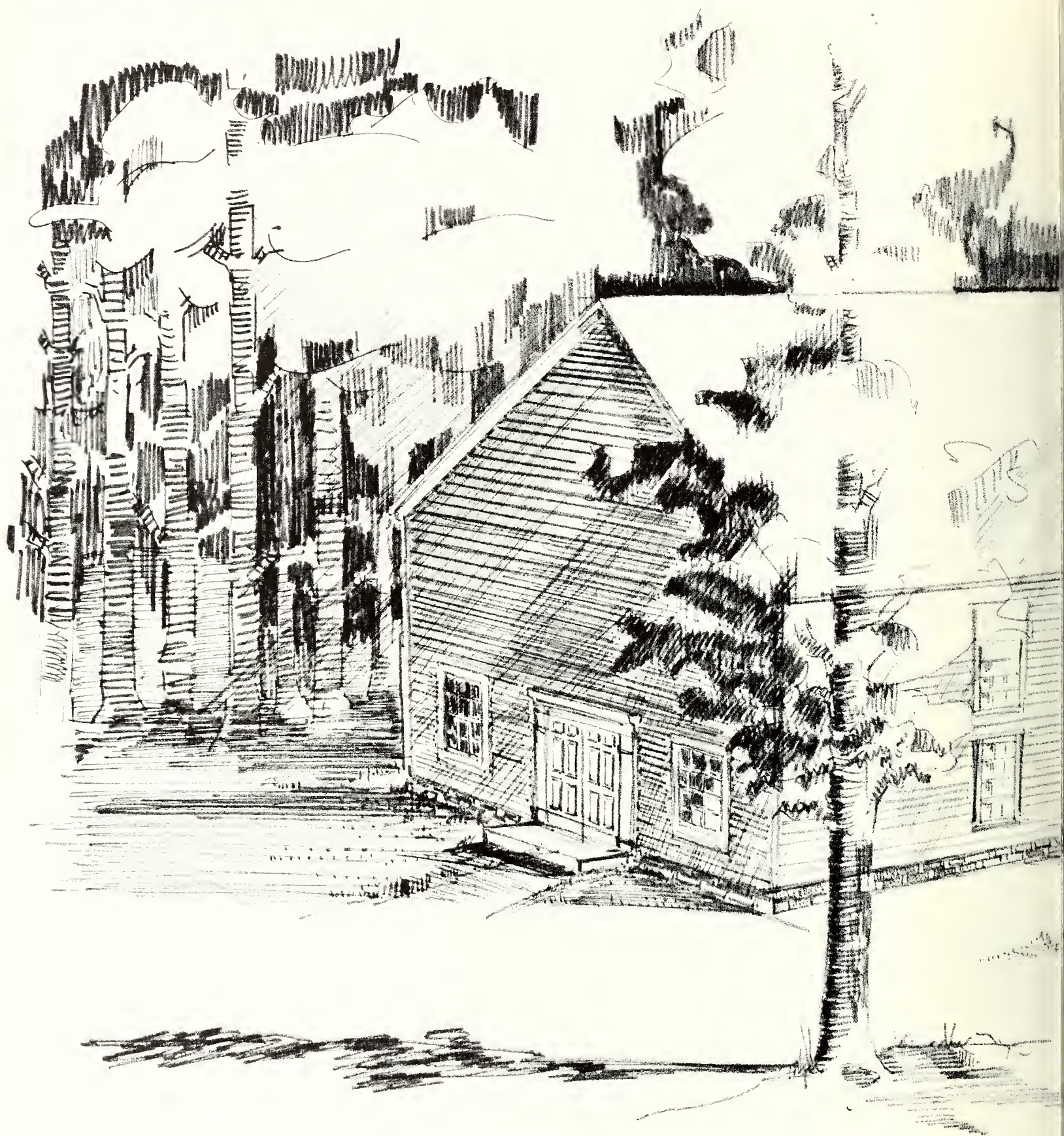




*Easter morning in third church sanctuary*



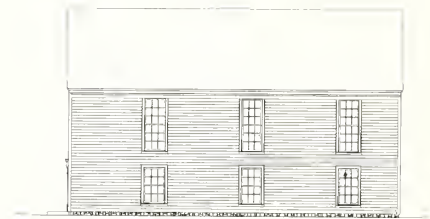
# our churches







Architectural version courtesy of  
Fred C. Abernethy, Jr., A.I.A.



## ***The first church at what is now First Avenue, S.E., just east of the present A&P store***

The roots of Corinth Church extend deep into the early history of this community. The late "unpleasantness between the States" had been over only seven years; carpetbags were the luggage of the day; and hard money was as scarce as paved streets when the first Reformed Church was erected in Hickory Tavern, North Carolina.

It was on the 13th day of April, 1872 that a group of Elders and Deacons, probably our first Consistory, contracted for the erection of a church house on their lot on the outskirts of the village. The site was what is now First Avenue, SE, adjoining the "old cemetery", just east of the present A. & P. store. No doubt it was an imposing building for its day — 33 feet wide by 57 feet long, two stories high, weather-boarded and shingled.

Specifications were that the windows in the lower story should have 12 lights, each 12 by 16 inches, and those in the upper story should have 18 lights each.

The contracting parties bore names of prominence and respect in their community, as do their

many descendants in the area today. They are listed as W. P. Reinhardt, H. W. Link, A. L. Shuford, A. A. Shuford and A. C. Link for the church, — and Aaron Sigmon, Amon Sigmon and William H. Ellis for the contractors.

The project must have been undertaken after much prayerful deliberation, for the cost was to be "five hundred dollars good and lawful money of the United States". This was a considerable sum for an economy of cotton and tobacco in the depths of Reconstruction. And that included only the erection cost. The congregation obligated itself to furnish "the necessary timber, lumber, shingles, nails, etc." For those interested in the decline of the dollar, this compares with the cost of \$275 for a single pew in our lovely new church.

Education, as well as religion, has long been of prime concern in the life of the Church. It is interesting to note that this first church house was organized in the first "Free Academy", as old timers termed it. It was stipulated that "Said academy be used for school purposes in the week, and for preaching the

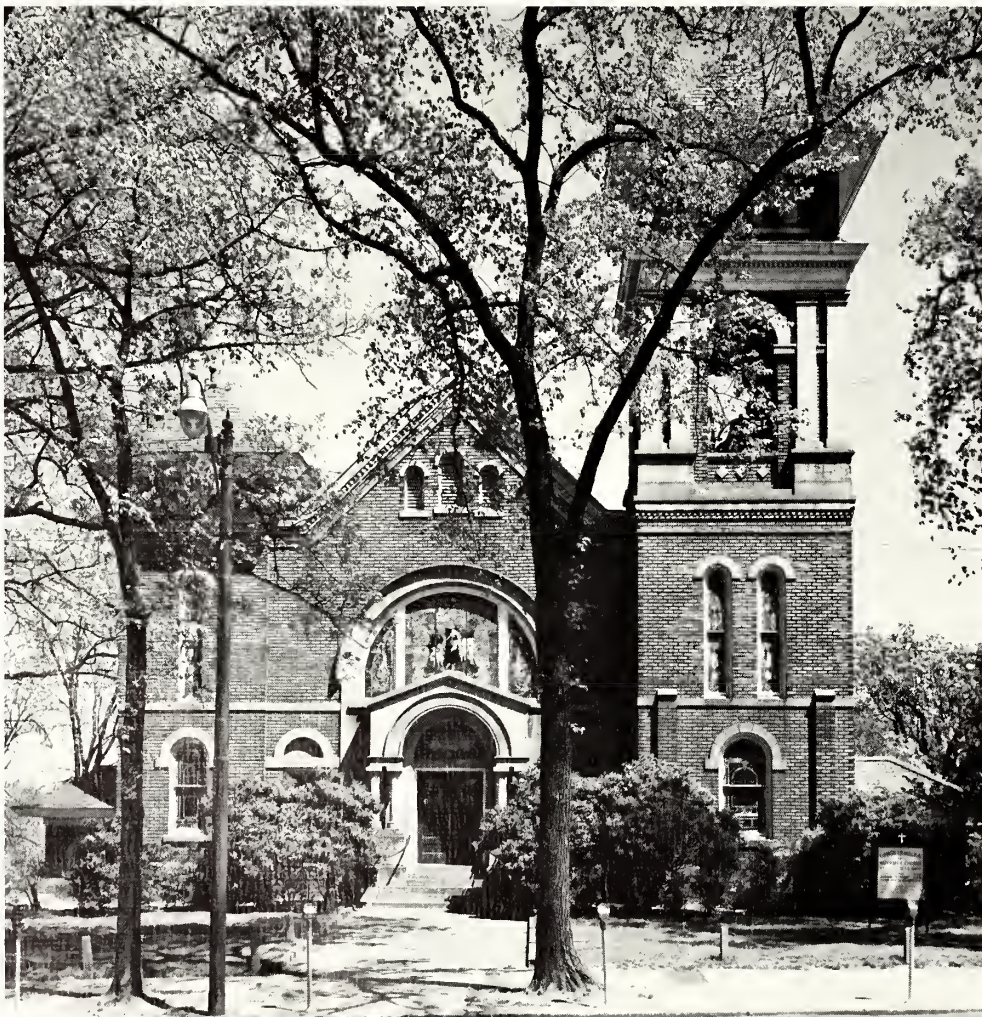
gospel, singing on Sabbath days, including Saturdays, etc." and further that "Said academy shall not be sectarian, but shall be kept by a committee composed of good and respectable citizens who shall see that no particular 'ism' is taught, but that it shall be for all Religious denominations to preach the Gospel according to their own views of the Holy Scripture". It was here that the forebears of many of our present members learned their three R's to the staccato tune of a hickory stick.

Many changes have taken place since our first church was built. The little village of Hickory Tavern has become a thriving industrial city. Through a series of mergers our denomination has passed from the Reformed, to the Evangelical and Reformed, to the present United Church of Christ. From a simple frame church house we have progressed through three building programs to the beautiful Gothic structure in which we worship today. Rude wooden benches have given way to comfortable upholstered pews, but the devotion of our members has not changed. We look back with pride and a sense of nostalgia to our first church in Hickory Tavern.





*The second Reformed Church was near the present  
Second Street and Trade Avenue, N.W.*



*The third church stood at Second Street and First Avenue,  
N.W., where the Northwestern Bank is now*





*Our present church at 16th Avenue, N.W.*

## features from then and now



Corinth Reformed Church was the first house of worship in Hickory to install a pipe organ. The instrument was purchased on September 23, 1890 from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, through Prof. W. Sanborn by A. C. Link for the congregation of "The Little Brick Church On the Corner." The late Doctor J. L. Murphy, in a newspaper story wrote, "Many persons came to hear the big organ. Never such a price had been paid for such an instrument. It cost \$200 to be paid in trade and in cash." It was hand-pumped, and the boys in the congregation vied with each other for the honor of pumping. Dr. Murphy recalled that occasionally one of the boys would fall asleep on the pumping job and had to be soundly thumped or shaken awake.

On November 1, 1910, the old organ was torn down and moved to the new church (corner of Second Street and First Avenue, NW) and placed in the basement of the building. It was later sold to Bethel Methodist, now Pisgah AME Church. Its present existence is unknown.

Dr. Murphy greatly missed the old organ, saying: "This instrument was always sympathetic with the congregation. It entered into the joys of the wedding march and emptied its soul into the sad strains of the funeral dirge."

A two manual organ supplanted Corinth's first pipe organ. When the third church was sold after the present church was occupied, Wade H. Shuford purchased the organ along with other property and gave the instrument to Catawba College in Salisbury.

The three manual organ in the new church was the gift of Mrs. Eli T. Watson.

The great carillon — or bells from Ireland — given by Hickory Manufacturing Company to the church in January, 1965, honored the memory of A. Alex Shuford, long identified with the work of the church and who served as both deacon and elder — "a fitting memorial to his memory."

Organists at Corinth Reformed Church have included Miss Florence Chase, Miss Carrie Link (Mrs. Will Whiting), Mrs. George E. Bisanar (Katharine Link), Mrs. Hugh S. D'Anna (Rose Shuford), Mrs. Harold G. Deal and Mrs. John T. McFarland (Mary Murphy). Mrs. McFarland has been organist at Corinth Church since 1926.

*"... the old organ ... was always sympathetic with the congregation."*



May 17-22, 1944

**CONSISTORY**

H. D. Althouse, president; G. H. Geitner, vice president; W. R. Weaver, secretary and treasurer.

**BROTHERHOOD**

Walker Lyerly, president; C. R. Warlick, treasurer; Wade H. Shuford, secretary.

**ELDERS**

George F. Bost, Mrs. J. L. Murphy, Sr., W. E. Miller, Joseph L. Murphy, J. W. Warlick, C. C. Bost, G. H. Geitner, Frank L. Fox, R. V. Moss, W. R. Weaver, George C. Warlick.

**DEACONS**

Barrie B. Blackwelder, Harley Shuford, Richard C. Boyd, Dr. Charles L. Hunsucker, Walker Lyerly, James C. Shuford, J. Carl Miller, Wade H. Shuford, C. S. Abernethy, D. E. Bolick, George L. Lyerly, John G. H. Geitner, C. C. Bost, Jr., D. Guy Rowe, Walker Geitner.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

R. V. Moss, superintendent, C. R. Warlick, treasurer.

**BEGINNERS:** Mrs. Jimmie Whitener, superintendent; Mrs. C. R. Warlick.

**PRIMARY and JUNIOR:** Miss Frances Field, Miss Ella Lee Shuford, Miss Madge Allran, Mrs. Guy Rowe, Miss Margaret Warlick, Mrs. J. W. Warlick, Mrs. J. L. Murphy, Sr.

**INTERMEDIATE and YOUNG PEOPLE:** Mrs. Fred A. Abernethy, Mrs. H. D. Althouse, Dr. Althouse, C. S. Abernethy.

**ADULT:** R. V. Moss, C. R. Warlick, J. W. Warlick, teacher.

**WOMEN'S GUILD**

Mrs. H. D. Althouse, president; Mrs. Robert Erwin, vice president; Mrs. C. H. Geitner, Jr., secretary; Mrs. C. T. Bost, treasurer.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY**

George Murphy, president; Edwin Harold Shuford, vice president; Ada Jane Geitner, secretary.

Next to their churches the early German settlers esteemed their schools. This was true of the men and women who established Corinth German Reformed Church.

Catawba College was established in Newton, in 1851, largely for male students. There was no school for girls, as such, of the Reformed denomination in North Carolina. So, on April 24, 1880 the Consistory of Corinth Church met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilfong and was told by Mrs. Wilfong that she had challenged Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Robinson to donate to the church land for a new church building so that the church then existing might be used for a school for girls. This they had agreed they would do. On a motion made and seconded by Deacons A. A. Shuford and A. C. Link the Consistory accepted the offer. Other members present were Rev. Jeremiah Ingold, pastor, Elders W. P. Reinhardt and J. F. Murrill and Deacon F. B. Ingold.

On July 27, 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Robinson deeded some twenty two acres of land to the church for one dollar and promise of free tuition for their children. The State of North Carolina issued a charter for Claremont College August 25, 1880. The land was largely bounded by (1969) Third and Fourth Avenues and First and Third Streets NE, in Hickory.

Rev. A. S. Vaughn, a former president of Catawba College was engaged to head the new college. Classes were first held in the fall of 1880 in Corinth Church. In addition to Rev. Mr. Vaughn, instructors were Miss Edwina Shearn and a Miss More. Courses were established in Literature, Art, Music, Science etc., and plans were made for buildings on the Robinson land. In the fall of 1883 classes were moved from the church to a new, large brick building. Rev. Mr. Vaughn resigned in 1884 and the young school faced many adversities, not the least being inadequate financial support. For some eight years the management consisted of women teachers or church pastors who took it on as additional work. In 1892 Dr. Joseph L. Murphy, pastor of Corinth Church, became president, serving with marked success until 1895.

The school trustees leased the school facilities

to S. P. Hatton of Hagerstown, Md.; and his brother M. W. Hatton. These men assembled strong faculties (five members having advanced academic degrees) and attracted young women from nine states and Canada. However, the Hattons transferred their lease to Prof. A. J. Bolin in 1902 who continued to operate the school until 1905. During this time he engaged a teacher in Waynesboro, Pa., Miss Maude Forthman. In due time she attracted the attention of a young surgeon, Dr. Jacob H. Shuford, a native son of Corinth Church who courted and won her. She probably is the sole surviving member of the faculties. For half a century Mrs. Shuford was soloist of Corinth Church possessing a beautiful soprano voice, she has appeared at many functions in this section of the state to the great enjoyment of her listeners. She is even now a regular attendant at all Corinth Church services.

Following Prof. Bolin, in charge of Claremont College, came Prof. D. W. Reed, then Rev. W. B. Duttera and Prof. N. E. Aull. In 1907 the Board of Trustees offered to turn the institution over to the Classis of the Reformed Church in North Carolina though retaining title to the properties. In 1909 the Classis elected Dr. J. L. Murphy president and Rev. J. H. Keller dean and this regime was quite successful. Rev. Keller resigned in 1912 to reenter active pastoral work. The Classis suspended operation of the college in 1915 as it was found to be impractical to operate two colleges in the same general area — Catawba College being only ten miles distant. The college facilities remained idle until 1919 when the Board of Trustees offered seven acres of land, including the brick building, to the City of Hickory for school purposes contingent upon the city erecting thereon a high school building to cost not less than \$225,000. Ultimately the offer was accepted and the new Claremont High School opened in the fall of 1925.

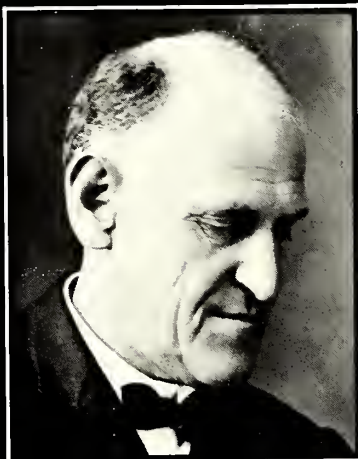
In retrospect, it is clear that Claremont College, though relatively short lived, exercised enormous influence upon the lives of hundreds of young women and, through them, the many communities they represented. Many senior citizens in Hickory, and elsewhere received their formal training there and were inspired to serve in many ways and places. The cultural influence of Claremont College continues to this day.



*Claremont Female College*



## 25th anniversary



Marking the beginning of the 25th anniversary of the pastorate of Dr. J. L. Murphy, was the reception given on Friday, November 5, 1915. The occasion brought together practically all of the members of the congregation, renewed the bands of fellowship, and inspired the members and the honored pastor to even better efforts in the cause to which all were laboring.

"It was an occasion of thanksgiving and pleasure" was the consensus.

The ladies had amply prepared for the affair. The lower floor of the church was beautifully decorated. A unique feature was the register which bore on the cover page the numerals "1890-1915," with Dr. Murphy's picture in the center. On the second page appeared a poem written by Mrs. C. C. Bost on the pastor's quarter century of services in which she mentioned his children — Josephine (Mrs. R. A.) Grimes, Joseph L., Jr., John, and Mary (Mrs. John T.) McFarland. On the following pages, more than 300 members had inscribed their names.

Welcoming the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Abernethy, Mrs. A. A. Shuford, Jr., and Hugh S. D'Anna. The receiving line was composed of Dr. and Mrs. Murphy and members of the Consistory. Mrs. W. E. McRorie and Mrs. F. P. Abernethy directed to the dining room, where Misses Lillian Field, Pearl Boyd, Hilda Field, and Mary Allen served. Mrs. J. H. P. Cilley and Mrs. James C. Shuford directed to the punch bowl, where Mrs. W. J. Shuford and Mrs. Fred A. Abernethy presided. Directing to the register were Mrs. Hugh D'Anna and Mrs. Albert Abernethy, assisted by Mrs. J. W. Warlick and Mrs. C. R. Warlick.

On Sunday morning Dr. Murphy preached on the subject "Twenty-Five Years in Hickory." Local ministers presented a union service in the afternoon with the Rev. J. G. Garth (Presbyterian) presiding, and the Rev. Sam B. Stroup (Episcopal) and the Rev. A. L. Stanford (Methodist) taking part. Dr. W. W. Rowe spoke on "Boyhood Memories" and the advantage of a long pastorate. The Rev. J. D. Hart (Baptist) spoke on "The Power of the Minister as a Citizen." Congratulatory messages were read from various friends.

The Brotherhood meeting held in the evening was presided over by J. W. Warlick. Others taking part were Charles H. Geitner; Dr. Jake H. Shuford; C. C. Bost, who spoke on his memories of the past 25 years; Carl L. Marshall, James Frye, Edgar Whitener, Bascam B. Blackwelder, and Adrian L. Shuford. Russell Whitener extended greetings from Bethel Reformed Church. A quartet composed of J. W. Warlick, L. H. Warlick, C. R. Warlick and Orin M. Sigmon, sang a special number. Music was played by the organist, Mrs. George E. (Katharine) Bisanar.

## CORINTH REFORMED CHURCH

Christmas, 1901.

Six o'clock A. M.

### I.

- I. ORGAN SOLO—Miss Katherine Link.
- II. ANTHEM—"Peace On Earth."—Choir.
- III. INVOCATION.
- IV. HYMN No. 75.
- V. SCRIPTURE LESSON, MATT. 1: 18-25.
- VI. GLORIA PATRI AND CREED.
- VII. PRAYER.
- VIII. SONG—"And There Were Shepherds"—Choir.
- IX. RECITATION—"THE SONG."—Lois Herman.
- X. SONG—"Merry Christmas All."—Children.
- XI. RECITATION—Earl Whisenhunt.

### II

- I. HYMN No. 61.
- II. SONG—"Merry Christmas Bells."—Children.
- III. VIOLIN SOLO—Dr. J. H. Shuford.
- IV. TRIO—Mesdames Murphy, Menzies and Bost.
- V. RECITATION—"A Merry Christmas—Ole Ingold.
- VI. SONG—"Hark, What Mean Those Holy Voices." [Choir]
- VII. RECITATION—"What Shall I Give?" Mary Campbell Shuford.
- VIII. ADDRESS.
- IX. CHRISTMAS OFFERING.
- X. SOLO—"Star of Bethlehem." Mrs. Maude Shuford Cilley.
- XI. HYMN No. 700.
- XII. BENEDICTION.

## An old program

A tradition of long standing in local church history ended in 1947 after being in existence for 62 years. It was the early Christmas dawn service in Hickory's Reformed Church.

According to the memoirs of the late Mrs. C. C. Bost, this six o'clock service on Christmas morn originated in the late 1850's. The Rev. Henry Harbaugh, D. D., a noted minister, poet, and theologian of the Reformed denomination held this type of service at Mercersburg, Pa., or near there.

When Rev. Lewis Reiter, also of Pennsylvania, became pastor of Hickory Tavern's Reformed Church in 1885, he announced his intention of holding a Christmas dawn service, but received very little encouragement. "Yes," his members said, "We will attend; however, there will be very few others out at such an unreasonable hour." But the people of Hickory Tavern, regardless of church affiliation or creed, arose to join with the Reformed Church congregation in observing the birthdate of Christ and lingered to felicitate the pastor on the success of the service.

This first service was held in Hickory's first Reformed Church, located near the old cemetery on what is now First Avenue S.E., which was considered rather "far out", at the time. For the 1886 and 1887 programs, the church was decorated in evergreens. The organist for the first two services was Miss Florence Chase, and the choir members were A. C. Link, J. F. Murrill, Miss May Ramseur (Mrs. P. W. Rollins), and Mrs. Bost.

By the time the Rev. J. L. Murphy, D. D. became pastor of "the little red brick church," the annual dawn service had become established. For several years Mrs. H. C. Menzies decorated the little church beautifully for the occasion with evergreens and candles.

This being before the days of steam heat, it was the duty of the young men of the congregation to see that a fire was kept burning all Christmas Eve to have the building comfortable on Christmas morn. The young men would arrive about 11 o'clock the night before Christmas, and go directly to the church where they sat up all night, stoking wood into the big "King Heater." It was also their duty to ring the church bell on Christmas morning, wakening the people and calling them to worship. Among the all-night stokers during the years of 1907-1911, were Carroll Bost, Jr., Joseph L. Murphy, Jr., George Lyerly, Albert and George Abernethy, J. Carl Miller, James C. Shuford, Durward Abernethy, Corbett Stapp, and others.

Only one service was omitted during the 62-year history of the dawn services. That was in 1945 when snow and sleet had made the streets of Hickory impassable.

C. C. Bost, a lifelong member of Corinth Church, had the record of having attended all of these special services.



## Pink Tea

The pink tea, given by the ladies of the Reformed Church for the purpose of purchasing lamps for the new building, "The Little Brick Church On the Corner" was a complete success, financially and socially. The weather was bad, but that had no effect upon the energetic people of our city. The boys were there in full force, each arriving with a pocket full of money and going away without any. The Hickory String Band furnished the music, and the whole affair was well organized. Everything was nice, and when served by some of Hickory's fairest maidens, it was extraordinarily nice. The following young ladies looked charming in their pink dresses and made things pleasant as well as costly for the boys: Misses Carrie Link (Mrs. Will Whiting), Ella Shuford (Mrs. T. M. Johnston), Emmo Ingold (Mrs. C. C. Bost), Florence Shuford (Mrs. W. X. Reid), Katie Shuford (Mrs. H. C. Menzies), and Momie Faucette (Mrs. K. C. Menzies).

Miss Ello Shuford led the fairies in the selling of her viands with Miss Carrie Link only a few cents behind. A box of flowers sent from Florida by Mrs. Jacob Shuford to Mrs. J. F. Murrill brought \$4.80 at the pink tea. The net proceeds amounted to \$75.63, and Mr. Abel Shuford gave \$5, making the amount \$80.63. The young ladies deserve much credit for the success with which they managed everything.

*From Mrs. C. C. Bost's Memoirs*





# MEMBERS OF 1923 CONSISTORY AS SEEN IN PHOTOGRAPH BELOW

*When General Synod Met in Hickory*

## FRONT ROW

W. J. Shuford  
Alex. Shuford  
Dr. W. W. Rowe  
Carroll M. Shuford  
J. C. Fry  
W. R. Weaver

## SECOND ROW

C. H. Geitner  
James Sigmon  
L. F. Abernethy  
J. W. Warlick  
Lewis H. Warlick  
George F. Bost  
J. F. Abernethy

## THIRD ROW

B. B. Blackwelder  
G. H. Geitner  
J. Carl Miller  
W. H. Ingold  
Dr. J. H. Shuford  
C. C. Bost  
S. L. Whitener  
John W. Robinson

# THE CONSISTORY OF 1969

President ..... Rev. Gordon H. Sperry  
Vice President ..... R. Walker Geitner  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Roy G. Ramseur

## ELDERS

Claude S. Abernethy, Sr.  
Albert M. Allran  
R. Richard Bost  
R. Walker Geitner  
Ernest A. Herman  
Daldee Hefner  
Harry Ingold  
Dr. Robert A. Keppel  
Edmund S. Long  
George L. Lyster, Jr.  
H. Leslie Moody  
Robert V. Moss  
Roy G. Ramseur  
A. Alex Shuford  
Archie W. Shuford  
Harley F. Shuford  
James C. Shuford  
Dr. Jake H. Shuford, Jr.  
Wade H. Shuford  
George C. Warlick  
Sam H. Warlick  
Dr. William R. Weaver, Jr.  
Marshall V. Yount

## DEACONS

Franklin Abernethy  
Claude S. Abernethy, Jr.  
Fred C. Abernethy, Jr.  
Harold Adams  
Martin Amacher  
Mrs. Carroll C. Bost III  
Cecil T. Bost, Jr.  
Hubert Boyd  
Lynch Cline  
Woodrow Coulter  
Robert N. Darling  
James Garrett  
Robert A. Grimes, Jr.  
Johnny Hefner  
Charles L. Hunsucker, Jr.  
Harold Latta  
Fred Lawing  
Bruce A. Lentz  
Robert M. Meadows  
George D. Murphy  
William R. Schell  
A. Pope Shuford  
Edwin H. Shuford, Jr.  
Robert M. Tarrant  
Tom W. White





## DIRECTORY

### CONSISTORY

Walter W. Rowe.....Pastor  
J. W. Warlick.....Secretary  
A. A. Shuford.....Treasurer

### ELDERS

C. C. Bost  
G. H. Gettner  
J. C. Fry  
J. W. Warlick  
C. M. Shuford  
R. H. Thomason  
J. F. Abernethy  
C. H. Gettner  
J. H. Shuford  
D. M. Boyd

### DEACONS

S. L. Whitener  
W. X. Reid  
A. A. Shuford  
L. F. Abernethy  
W. H. Ingold  
W. J. Shuford  
G. F. Bost  
J. C. Miller  
J. W. Robinson  
James Sigmon

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

C. H. Gettner.....Supt.  
B. B. Blackwelder.....Asst. Supt.  
C. R. Warlick.....Secretary  
L. H. Warlick.....Treasurer  
Aileen Aiken.....Pianist

### TEACHERS

J. W. Warlick.....Mrs. C. C. Bost  
W. J. Shuford.....Mrs. R. A. Grimes  
L. F. Abernethy.....Mrs. W. W. Rowe  
W. F. Warlick.....Miss Pearl Boyd  
Mrs. T. M. Johnson.....Mrs. Russell Yount

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. H. C. Menzies.....Supt.  
Miss Lillian Fields.....Asst. Supt.  
Mrs. J. L. Murphy.....Organist

### TEACHERS

Mrs. H. C. Menzies.....Mrs. S. L. Whitener  
Mrs. F. A. Abernethy.....Miss Frances Fields  
Mrs. C. R. Warlick.....Mrs. J. L. Abernethy

### CHOIR

Mrs. Hugh D'Anna.....Organist  
Mrs. J. L. Murphy.....Director

### WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. C. C. Bost.....President  
Mrs. J. E. Allen.....Secretary  
Mrs. G. H. Gettner.....Treasurer

### YOUNG WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Mrs. W. W. Rowe.....President  
Miss Constance Bost.....Secretary  
Miss Sallie Bumgarner.....Treasurer

### Y. P. S. C. E.

Mrs. Russell Yount.....President  
Miss Mabel Miller.....Secretary  
Whiteford Rowe.....Treasurer

### MISSIONARY AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

C. H. Gettner.....B. B. Blackwelder  
L. F. Abernethy.....W. J. Shuford

### L. H. Warlick

### OUR MISSIONARIES TO CHINA

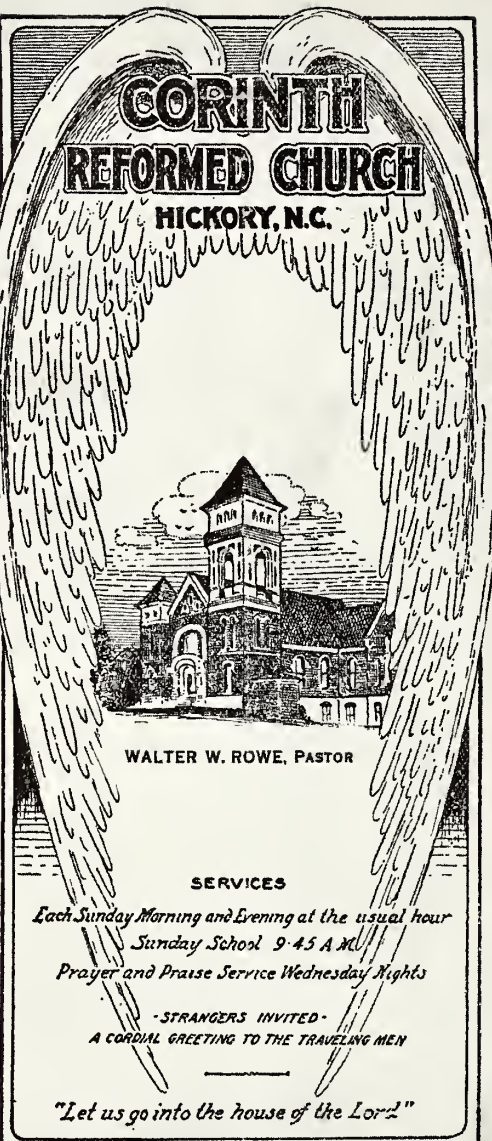
Rev. and Mrs. Sterling Whitener

### USHERS

J. L. Murphy Chief

Ernest Herman.....A. L. Pope  
James Sigmon.....Winfred Ingold  
Cecil Bost.....J. C. Miller  
J. H. Aiken.....James Shuford

Will Bell, Sexton



## CORINTH REFORMED CHURCH

HICKORY, N.C.

WALTER W. ROWE, PASTOR

### SERVICES

*Each Sunday Morning and Evening at the usual hour*

*Sunday School 9:45 A.M.*

*Prayer and Praise Service Wednesday Nights*

-STRANGERS INVITED-

A CORDIAL GREETING TO THE TRAVELING MEN

*"Let us go into the house of the Lord"*

## 1920 Directory - Consistory

### Candlelight Service

During the many years since Corinth Church was founded it has had a few seasonal services peculiar to this congregation. One was the six o'clock service Christmas morning, a custom which continued for more than 60 years.

In 1940 Mrs. Harry D. Althouse inaugurated another one, the Candle Light Service that is held on Sunday afternoon prior to Christmas Day. This service, based upon some story from the Bible, has become the outstanding program of the year. As those attending the worship service enter the sanctuary each is given an unlighted white candle. The service consists of Christmas music, seasonal scriptural readings and a brief meditation by the Pastor. Then, six young girls in angelic garb, members of Mrs. Althouse's Sunday School class, proceed to the altar, each bearing a candle which the Pastor lights

from the altar candles. Passing along the aisles the girls pass the light to the person sitting next to the aisle and that person passes the light on to the next until every person has received the flame. Upon a signal from the altar the entire congregation stands, each holding aloft a lighted candle, and joins the choir in singing Silent Night, Holy Night. The candles remain lighted until those present reach the front door of the church. This worship service is one of great beauty.

It was for many years in the charge of Miss Frances Field, a native daughter of the congregation. Miss Field is still a member of the church but has been forced by ill health to relinquish her services to the church.

Assisting in the service as ushers are the boys of Mrs. Althouse's class.





**Mrs. C. C. Bost**

The women of Corinth Reformed Church in Hickory have always played an important role in the work of the church. From the Bost diary (C. C. and M. M. Bost) dated Nov. 24, 1883, it is noted that "A Missionary meeting was held to organize a Missionary Society in the Reformed Church."

Mrs. C. C. (Emma Ingold) Bost in her memoirs recorded that soon after Dr. Joseph L. Murphy became pastor of this church some of the ladies, led by Mrs. Alice Ingold Murrill, requested him to organize a Woman's Society. A call was issued to the women of the congregation and on Monday, Nov. 24, 1890 this society was organized "for the advancement of Christianity in general and this congregation in particular."

"The officers elected were: president, Mrs. Alda Campbell Shuford; vice president, Mrs. Mory Forney Reinhardt; recording secretary, Mrs. Alice Ingold Murrill; and treasurer, Mrs. Mattie Shuford Whitener. The remaining lady present was Mrs. Emma Ingold Bost."

"If space permitted, a list of all the members with their biographies would be of interest. Of each one we might say 'she hath done what she could.' It should be noted that the recording secretary elected that day held the office willingly and efficiently for 25 years until ill health demanded her resignation. The writer (Mrs. Bost) was elected president in January 1901 and was the interested leader for 35 years. When 25 years had passed, the Society presented her a lovely engraved silver sandwich tray. When 35 years had passed, a handsome purse of money, with flowers, was brought to her home. With mutual reluctance the bond was severed."

"Mrs. Orpha Schaeffer (H. D.) Althouse became the leader for two years, followed by Mrs. Mabel Miller Rowe who completed two years of service. In 1941, the president of the Women's Guild of Corinth Evangelical and Reformed Church of Hickory was Mrs. Jettie Abernethy (Walker) Lyerly, the 'merger president'."



**Mrs. G. Harvey Geitner**



**Mrs. J. L. Murphy**

"Mrs. Ado Shuford Geitner who was elected treasurer in January, 1903 is still the efficient treasurer, and has held the office for 38 consecutive years. Her services are highly appreciated."

"It might be noted that Mrs. Essie Carpenter (J. L.) Murphy for many years a valued member of the Society, was the first woman in the Classis to be elected an Elder in the Consistory. She holds the office gracefully and efficiently. She is also a valued member of the choir."

"The Society has entertained the WMS of N.C. Classis a number of times, the Institute and the WMS of Potomac Synod. Its 'high light' however was in May, 1929 when the congregation was hostess to the Women's Missionary Society of General Synod. The congregation responded splendidly to all calls made upon it. Ladies serving on committees of entertainment, pages, etc., were Mrs. Joe Abernethy, Mrs. Fred Abernethy, Mrs. Walker Lyerly, Mrs. J. W. Worlick, Mrs. George Lyerly, Mrs. Gordon Crowell, Mrs. Charles Geitner, Mrs. H. C. Menzies, Mrs. W. J. Shuford, Mrs. C. R. Warlick, Miss Esther Blockwelder, Miss Phoebe Ingold and others."

"At the close of the Rev. H. D. Althouse's ten years of service as pastor of Corinth congregation, the society tendered Rev. and Mrs. Althouse a reception to which all members of the congregation and their families and many friends were invited. Mayor and Mrs. Walker Lyerly graciously tendered their hospitable home for the happy occasion. During the evening a handsome silver service was presented to the guests of honor by G. Harvey Geitner on behalf of the congregation."

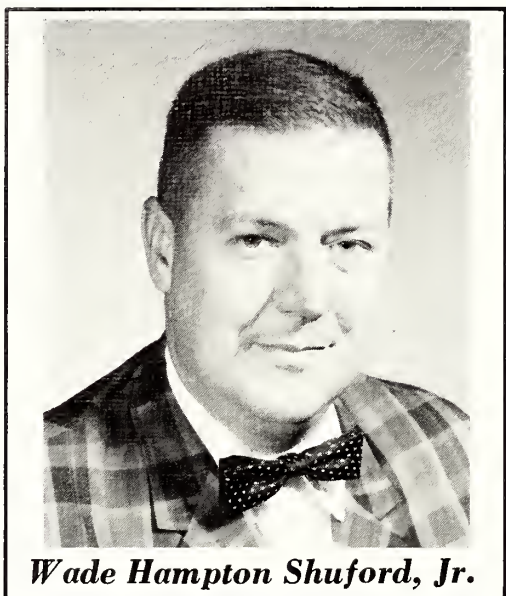
Presidents of Corinth Women's Guild since 1943 are listed as follows: Mrs. Robert Erwin, Mrs. George Lyerly, Sr., Mrs. George C. Worlick, Mrs. H. Leslie Moody, Mrs. Archie Shuford, Mrs. Scott Watson, Mrs. Alan Bisanar, Mrs. Wolter Wooten, Mrs. Thomas E. Long, Mrs. Lynch Cline, Mrs. Corroll Burns, Jr., Mrs. Franklin Abernethy, Mrs. Martin Amacher and Mrs. Tom Gadd."



**Mrs. Orpha Schaeffer  
(H.D.) Althouse**



Mrs. George C. Warlick has a long record of service at Corinth Church. For over 28 years she has prepared the elements for the communion service held quarterly each year.



**Wade Hampton Shuford, Jr.**

Wade Hampton Shuford, Jr., a son of Corinth Reformed Church, has long been interested in youth work in the church and finished a training course in Religious Education at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Austin, Tex.

In addition to work in Virginia Mr. Shuford has engaged in youth camp work and other religious activities. He will engage in camp work this summer.

His grandfather, Adolphus L. Shuford, was one of the founders of Corinth Church.

He received his earlier education at Hickory High School and Mercersburg Academy, and was graduated from Catawba College. Mr. Shuford attended graduate school at Middleton Spanish school and the University of North Carolina. A veteran of the United States Air Force Mr. Shuford was engaged in banking before entering the seminary. He is married to the former Miss Joanne White of Hickory, and they have two sons, Wade Hampton, III, and David William Shuford.



**Miss Jeanne Ingold**

Miss Jeanne Ingold is a native of Guilford County. She graduated from Catawba College in 1953 and from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1955 with a Masters of Religious Education degree. She served as Director of Christian Education at Faith Church, Philadelphia, Pa. from 1955 to 1957. She has been director of Christian Education at Corinth Church since 1958.

Through the years our church has had several organizations promoting the young peoples participation in our church work, but today most of the youth activity is centered in our Junior Youth, Junior High and Senior High Youth Fellowships, Brownie Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts and Boy Scout activities, and the Youth Choir.

In former days Corinth Church sponsored the Children's Mission Band, the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor the Girls' Guild, and the Young Woman's Auxiliary with able leaders directing this fine wholesome and rewarding Christian work. The Johns River Summer Camp and the Daily Vacation Bible School conducted each Summer have attracted many children, some from other denominations.

### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP NUMBER 230

Claude S. Abernethy, Scout & Scoutmaster for Over 50 Years

Fred C. Abernethy Jr., Ass't Scoutmaster

George C. Warlick, Institutional Representative

### JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP NUMBER 9

Leaders, Jeanne Ingold and Mrs. Joe Mac White

### BROWNIE SCOUT TROOP NUMBER 55

Leader, Mrs. Thomas E. Long



### PRIMARY CHOIR

Choir members, left to right are

#### FRONT ROW

Mary Shuford  
Martha Geitner  
Jane Keppel  
Elizabeth Abernethy  
Lisa Bost  
Leslie Hefner  
Dickie Boyd

#### SECOND ROW

Debbie Darling  
Donnie Holland  
Shuford Abernethy Jr.  
William Daughtrey  
Mark Reitzel

#### THIRD ROW

Henry Shuford  
Richard Keely  
Carol Long  
Elizabeth Clarke  
Cherie Bost  
Ginger Warlick

#### FOURTH ROW

Elizabeth Fuller  
Michael Cowan  
Charles Davidson  
Sam Murphy  
Cliff Hefner

Members not in picture: Doug Adams, Snyder Garrison, Cappi Hamlin, Karen Laney, Alice McKaughn, Robert McKaughn, III, Walker Lyerly, III, Eddie Lambeth, Alfred Yount and Marshall Yount.



## YOUTH CHOIR

The above picture of the Youth Choir directed by Mrs. Frank Barger was taken at the annual Candlelight ceremony in December, 1968.

The angels on the left are portrayed by Malinda Rowe, Jane Jessup, Sarah Jane Coulter and Sally Parks. Those on the right are Pamela Sherrill, Jo Lynn Johnson and Cynthia Logan.

left to right, are

### FRONT ROW

Hunt Shuford  
Douglas Lentz  
Catherine Fuller  
Barbara Bell  
Harold Latta, III  
Dixie Murphy  
Cathy Moss

### SECOND ROW

Laura Abernethy  
Rebecca Burns  
Lillbet Bell  
Tommy Abernethy  
Bill Bost

### THIRD ROW

Leslie Latta  
Susan Jessup  
Charles Moss, Jr.  
Mark Bailey

### FOURTH ROW

Melody Coonce  
Jan White  
Cynthia Abernethy  
Laura Shuford

## SENIOR CHOIR

### FRONT ROW

Mrs. Charles Shuford  
Mrs. Charles Moss  
Mrs. Luke Dettter  
Mrs. Richard C. Boyd, Jr.  
Mrs. Robert A. Keppel  
Mrs. John McCarley

### SECOND ROW

James Garrett  
D. Lee Jessup  
Sam J. Warlick  
Dr. Robert A. Keppel

### FRONT ROW

Miss Cynthia McCarley  
Mrs. H. M. Bailey  
Mrs. Harley F. Shuford, Jr.  
Miss Karan Dettter

### SECOND ROW

Miss Joyce Reese  
Mrs. Larry Estes  
Mrs. Sam J. Warlick  
Mrs. Fred C. Abernethy

### THIRD ROW

Franklin Abernethy  
Robert G. Bell  
Jack Daughtrey  
Charles Moss

Mrs. Frank Barger, choir director

Mrs. John McFarland, organist, is standing in back left row.

Not present when the picture was made were Miss Beth Bisanar, Mrs. Jack Daughtrey, Miss Janie Parks, Mrs. James Pegram and D. Lee Jessup, Jr.







***Mrs. John T. McFarland has been organist at Corinth Church since 1926***

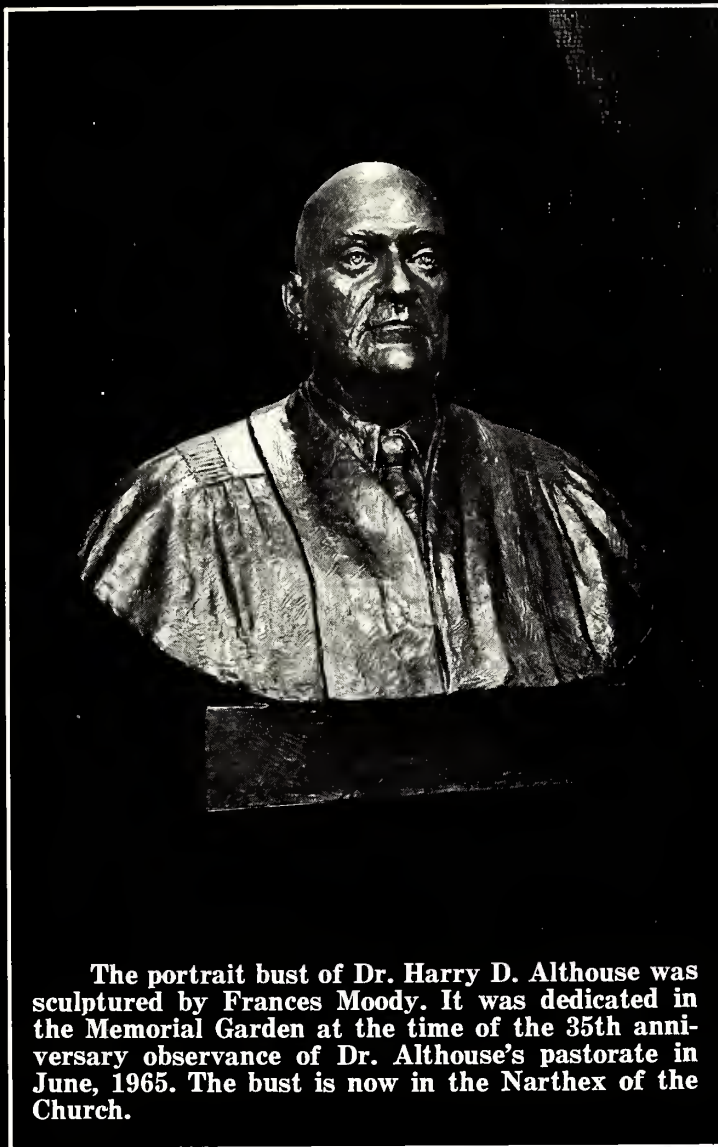
### ***Memorial Garden***

A memorial is something to help people remember some person or event.

The sun filtered through an overcast to brighten the scene when the congregation of Corinth Church gathered on May 7, 1961, for the dedication of its Memorial Garden, back of the edifice. The beautifully planted garden, a memorial to the J. F. Abernethy family, was the gift of Julius Abernethy of Newton. The family has long played a historic role in Corinth Church, and produced leaders for several generations. The fountain was given in memory of Clement Geitner by his daughters, Mrs. Sue Geitner Dunaway of Charlotte, and Mrs. Alice Geitner Folckemer of Asheville. Mr. Geitner was a leader in Hickory Garden Club circles, and a great lover of flowers. The "Jug Boy" is a memorial to Christopher Powell Logan who was born Sept. 1, 1960 and died Sept. 14, 1965.







The portrait bust of Dr. Harry D. Althouse was sculptured by Frances Moody. It was dedicated in the Memorial Garden at the time of the 35th anniversary observance of Dr. Althouse's pastorate in June, 1965. The bust is now in the Narthex of the Church.

### ***The Parson Reminisces***

Many unusual experiences can happen to a minister during his pastorate. However, he sometimes keeps quiet about it. But Dr. Harry D. Althouse, for 38 years pastor of Corinth Evangelical and Reformed Church, has admitted to some of his most glorious moments, and some of his worst.

### ***THE MODERN PAUL REVERE***

Rosemary Elizabeth Althouse was born on Sunday afternoon at 4 P.M. Sept. 18, 1932 in the Richard Boker Hospital. The pastor of Corinth Church must have been somewhat befuddled. When he came out of the hospital he got into a car which was not his own. When the key wouldn't fit he realized he was in someone else's car. After looking into one or two other automobiles he finally found his own car. This, I am sure, is not unusual among new fathers and he thought that he was unobserved. But George Killian (father of Mrs. Annie Aiken) had witnessed the whole incident. It was just too good to keep.

The pastor got into his car and turned down Fifth Avenue, NE. A number of the members of the church lived on this particular street and every member he passed he would shout, "It's a girl! It's a girl!" On hearing the news they at first did not know what to make of it and then they began to break into smiles. It was in this manner that Dr. Althouse received the name of the modern Paul Revere.

### ***THE ELDER AND HIS TURKEY***

It was a few days before Thanksgiving and the pastor was in his study. The phone rang and William Weaver, who was an Elder in the church said, "Pastor, do you have your gun handy?" He said, "It's right here in the next room." "Well," the elder said, "my turkey got away and it's down here in a high tree in front of the Presbyterian Church. I thought you might be able to bring it down." The pastor went down to the Presbyterian Church and there, sure enough, was a great big turkey in the very top of the tree. He said "Make a noise, so he'll raise his head. I think his son William made the noise." The turkey raised his head and began to come falling down. The pastor has never been known for his marksmanship, but one single shot pierced the turkey's neck and he came tumbling down and was stone dead when he reached the ground.

A year passed and it was Thanksgiving time again. The phone rang — it was the same conversation — the same Elder. But this time the Elder's turkey had gotten out and he wasn't sure where it was, but he thought it was in someone's garden around there and the gardens for the most part were grown up with weeds. They began to search the gardens and suddenly the Elder said "There he goes." The preacher fired away and the turkey toppled over. The preacher said to Mrs. Weaver "Just call on me next year." She said "Yes, but you didn't do as well as you did last year. Last year you killed that turkey with one shot and there must have been a dozen or more in him this year." "I don't recall that we had any further turkey trouble," Dr. Althouse reminisced.

### ***TEENY GOES TO CHURCH***

Some of the older members of the church will remember that once upon a time the Althouse family had a small, black dog whose name was Teeny. When they moved from the parsonage downtown to the parsonage on Second Avenue NW, Teeny could never be sure where he was. He always wore a collar with a little bell. The preacher remembers they put him in the car and kept him there during the church services. Someone must have let him out. When the pastor was in the pulpit preaching his sermon he thought he heard tinkling sounds. He did. There sat Teeny wiggling his tail and having the time of his life. The pastor picked him up and handed him to Georgio Sherrill, who was then a member of the choir. She had a hard time controlling him and when the pastor pronounced the benediction and was walking down the aisle Teeny jumped over the chancel railing and followed him to the door, bell and all. That was Teeny's first and last appearance in church.







**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS  
and OFFICERS 1968-69**

General Superintendent - Charles Moss  
Treasurer - Cecil T. Bost, Jr.

**ADULT AND YOUTH DEPARTMENTS**

Superintendent - Charles Shuford  
Adult Teachers - Jim Garrett  
Albert Allran  
Claude Abernethy, Jr.  
Martin Amacher  
Fred Abernethy Jr.  
Senior High Teacher - Mrs. Pope Shuford  
Pianist - Mrs. Archie Shuford

**JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT:**

Superintendent - Robert Darling

**Teachers:**

9th Grade - Mrs. Richard Berry  
8th Grade - Miss Shirley Hefner  
7th Grade - Claude Abernethy, Sr.  
Pianist - Mrs. Jack Daughtrey

**JUNIOR DEPARTMENT:**

Superintendent - Miss Jane Hefner

**Teachers:**

6th Grade - Johnny R. Hefner  
5th Grade - Mrs. James Hamby  
4th Grade - Mrs. Richard Boyd, Jr.  
Pianist - Mrs. Franklin Abernethy

**PRIMARY DEPARTMENT:**

Superintendent - Mrs. Carroll Bost, III

**Teachers:**

3rd Grade - Mrs. Dean Lambeth  
2nd Grade - Mrs. E. L. Burns, Jr.  
1st Grade - Mrs. Walker Lyerly, III  
Pianist - Mrs. Jack Daughtrey

**KINDERGARTEN II:**

Superintendent - Mrs. Robert Erwin  
Teacher - Mrs. Carroll Burns, Jr.

**KINDERGARTEN I:**

Superintendent - Mrs. Lee Jessup  
Teacher - Miss Genelia Whitener

**NURSERY:**

Superintendent - Mrs. Luke Detter  
Teacher - Mrs. Harold Adams  
Pianist Pre-School Group - Mrs. John McFarland

**CRIB NURSERY:**

Mrs. Clifford Parks                      Mrs. Thomas Bost  
Mrs. John McCarley

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ADVISORS:**

Senior High  
Tim Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Abernethy, Jr.

Junior High  
Miss Jeanne Ingold  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Moss

Junior  
Tim Kennedy                      Mrs. Frank Shuford



